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Bill Cobey  
Chairman

Linda Daves  
Vice Chairman

Dear Ms. Hesse:

As the Chairman of the North Carolina Republican Party, I have to be prepared to make tough decisions every day. I have to be constantly concerned with campaign strategy, issue debates and new fundraising strategies for the party. I'm glad to know that I have Microsoft products at my disposal each and every day to maximize my efficiency in dealing with these and other matters.

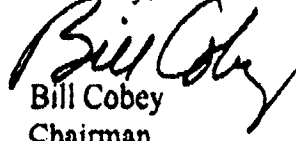
I've been involved in public service for a long time, having served the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as Athletic Director and as a member of Congress from North Carolina's Fourth Congressional District. Over the years, I've seen what improved technology can do for a staff.

For example, data processing technology makes the creation and mail merging of a document so efficient that it barely takes longer to write a letter to one hundred people than it does to write a letter to one person. Spreadsheets, business presentations and planning documents make meetings operate more smoothly and increase the level of comprehensive communication between everyone involved in a project.

Microsoft has consistently led the way in technological innovation. From their Windows suite of products to their constant innovative program updates, Microsoft quite simply has produced the software that have been successful for American business and American families.

I'm not an attorney by trade, and I'm not familiar with every bit of legal minutia present in the federal government's antitrust case against Microsoft, but it seems to me that if both parties have agreed to a settlement, that settlement should be approved. The American economy is too dependent on technological innovation to drag this lawsuit out any further. I request that Judge Kollar Kotelly to approve the settlement.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Cobey  
Chairman